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SOME FACTS ABOUT RURAL PEOPLE  
That May Be Related to Library Services and Reading

1. Population in the United States 1950: Living on farms ..... 15.6%  
Rural nonfarm (under 2,500)..... 20.6  
Urban (places 2,500% over) ..... 63.8

2. Population by regions 1940:

Northeast .....	Rural farm	6.4%	Rural nonfarm	17.0%	Urban	76.6%
South .....		39.2%		24.1%		36.7%
North Central .....		23.1%		18.6%		58.3%
West .....		16.8%		24.7%		58.5%

3. Population in the United States age 60 and over: 1920 ..... 7.5%  
1950 ..... 12.1%

4. Median years schooling completed by persons age 25 and over, 1940:

Rural farm .....	7.7 years
Rural nonfarm .....	8.4 years
Urban .....	8.7 years

5. Farms in the United States:

With radio (1945) .....	72.8%
With electricity (1950).....	86.3%
Within 1/2 mile of all-weather road (1945)	72.4%

6. Counties in the United States out of 3,070 total - in 1950:

Without a town over 2,500 population .....	Number	1,076	35%
" " " " 5,000 " .....		1,695	55%
With a town over 5,000 population .....		299	10%
		<u>3,070</u>	<u>100%</u>

7. About 800 counties have only county-wide library service, and about 600 are without any kind of public library service within their boundaries. There are more than 400 bookmobiles - in 38 States.

8. Average expenditures for family consumption 1941 (BLS Bulletin 822)

	Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
Food .....	\$ 601	\$ 513	\$ 729
Automobile .....	104	152	223
Medical care .....	62	71	107
Recreation .....	27	36	101
Tobacco .....	17	26	48
READING .....	8	11	23

9. Number of general magazines circulated per 100 people in 1942:

Rural farm .....	34	Counties under 25% rural .....	44
Rural nonfarm and urban ...	42	Counties 75% or more rural ...	14



